

In-Water Recovery Management of Sea Turtles: South Carolina and Beyond



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SCDNR Sea Turtle Program

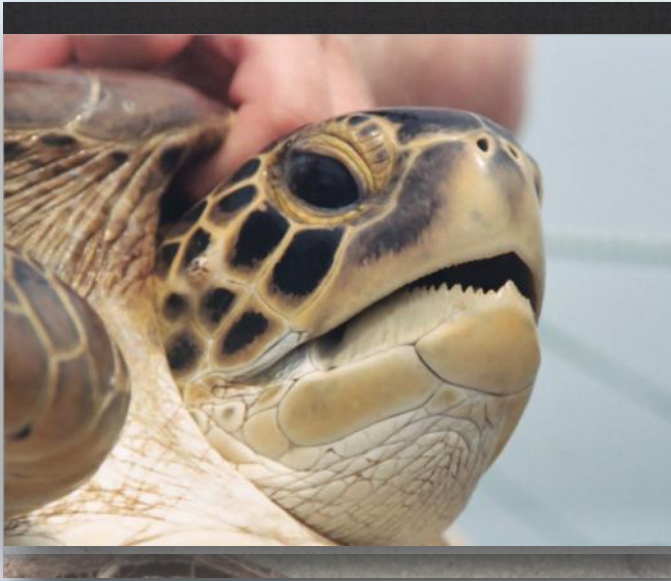
Terrestrial and Marine Components

- Technical Guidance/Permits
- Management
- Monitoring
- Education
- Recovery Research

Hopper Dredge Mortality



Species, Habitat and Status



Habitat

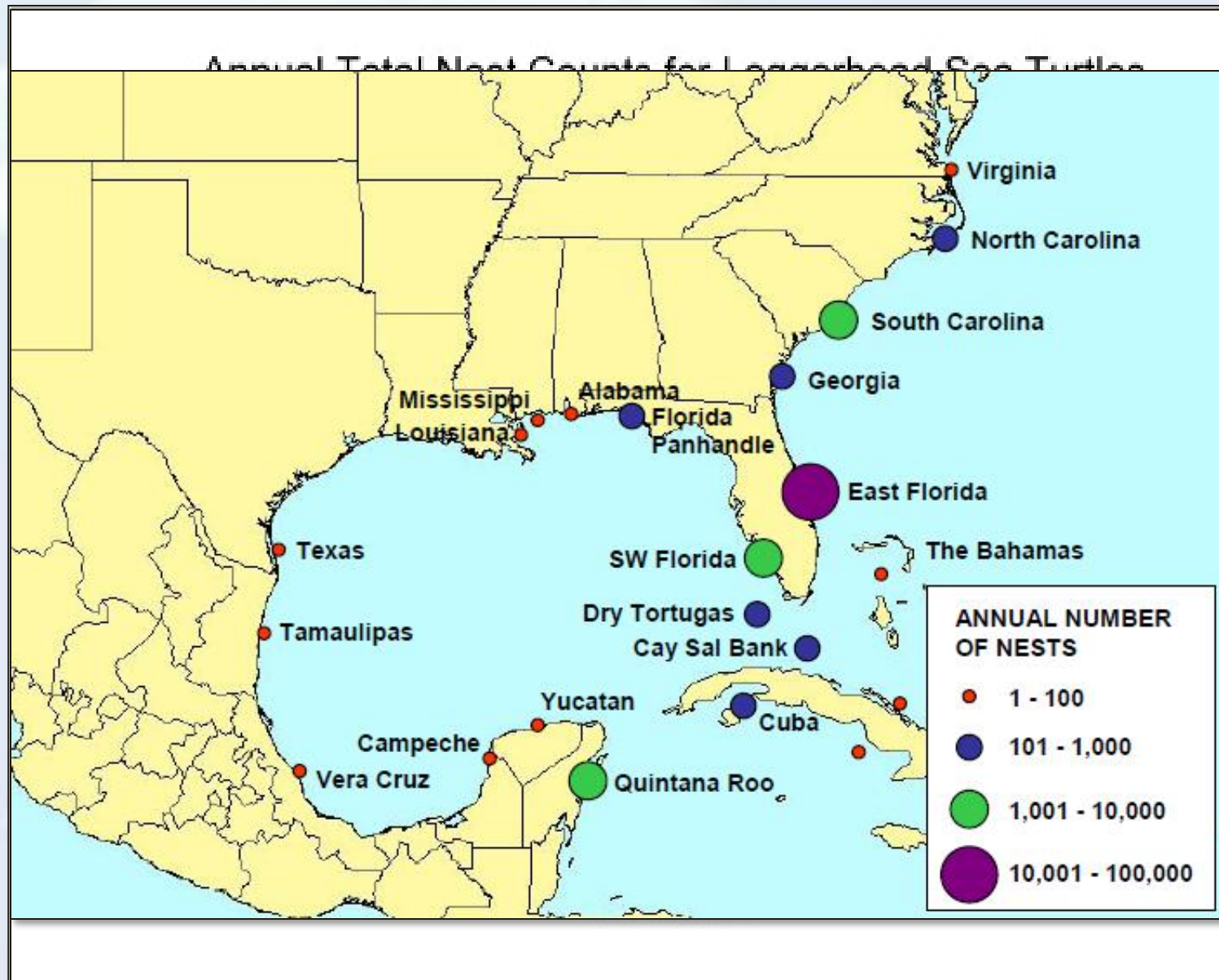
- Forages in inshore, near offshore and offshore waters of the Southeastern United States
- Nests from Florida and Georgia to NC and SC
- Second most common species in South Carolina
- Significant nesting and foraging in SC

Status

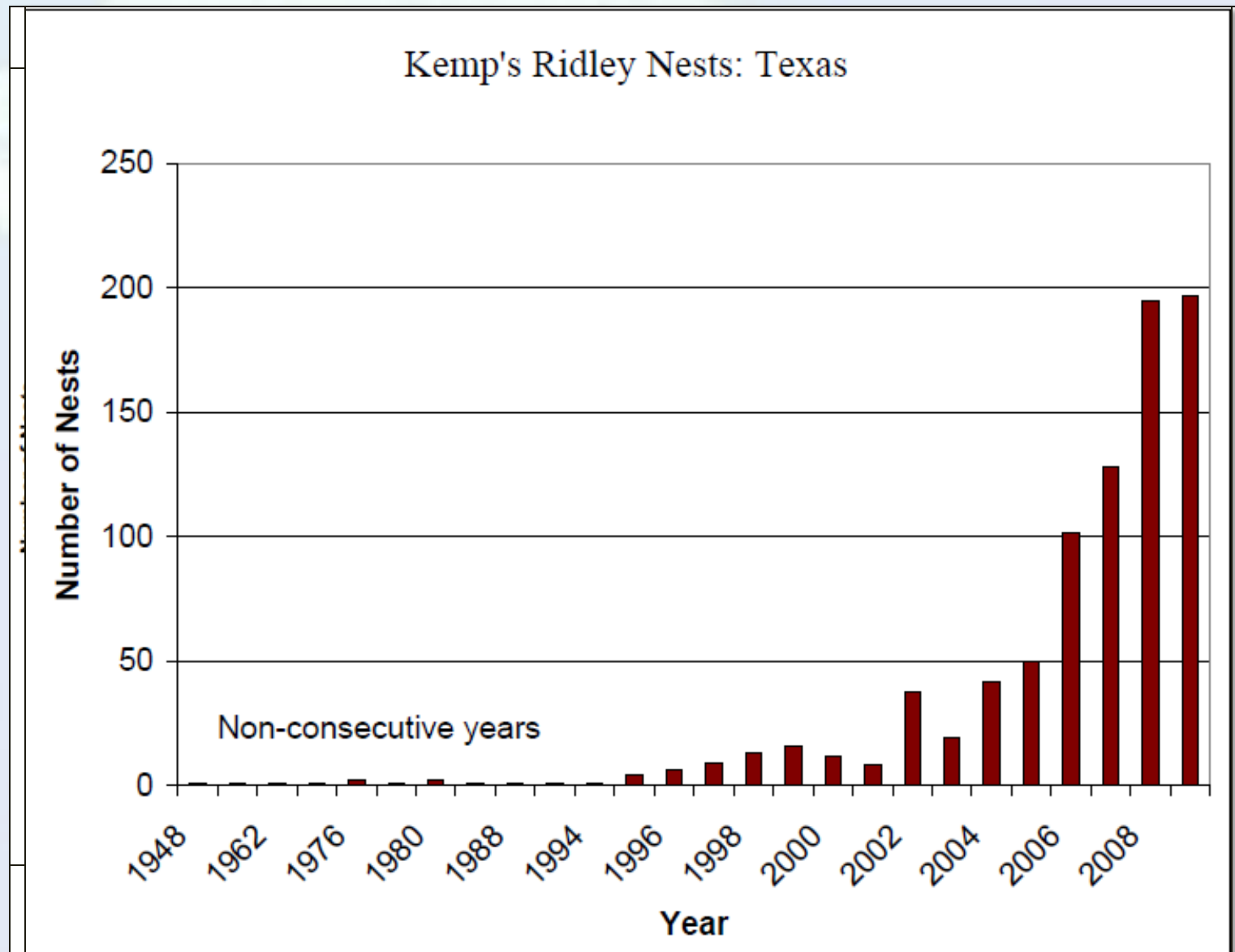
- Listed as **Endangered** under the federal Endangered Species Act
- Listed as **Endangered** under the state Endangered Species Act
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- Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*)
- Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*)
- Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*)
- Green (*Chelonia mydas*)

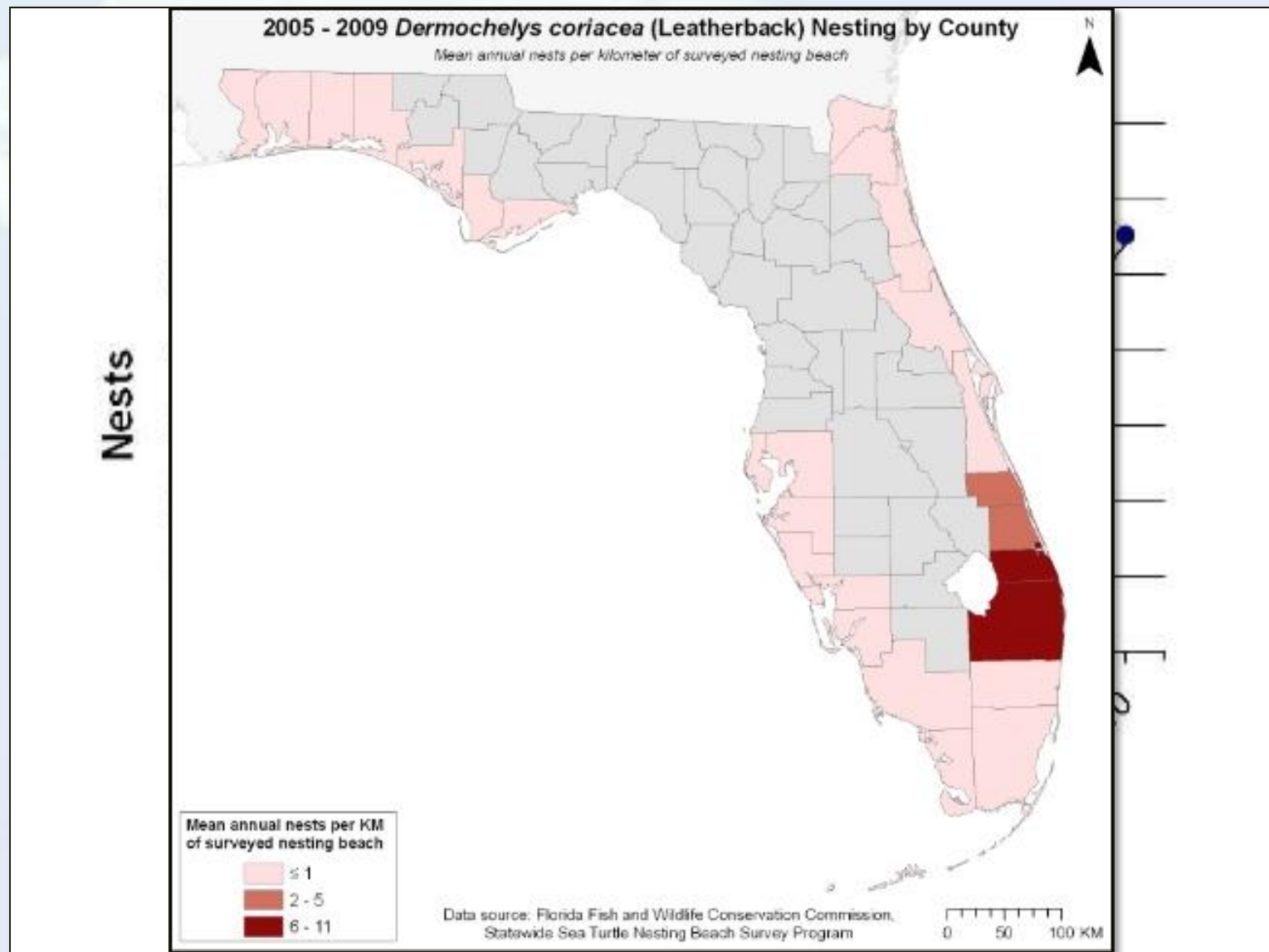
Loggerhead Nesting in FL, GA, NC and SC



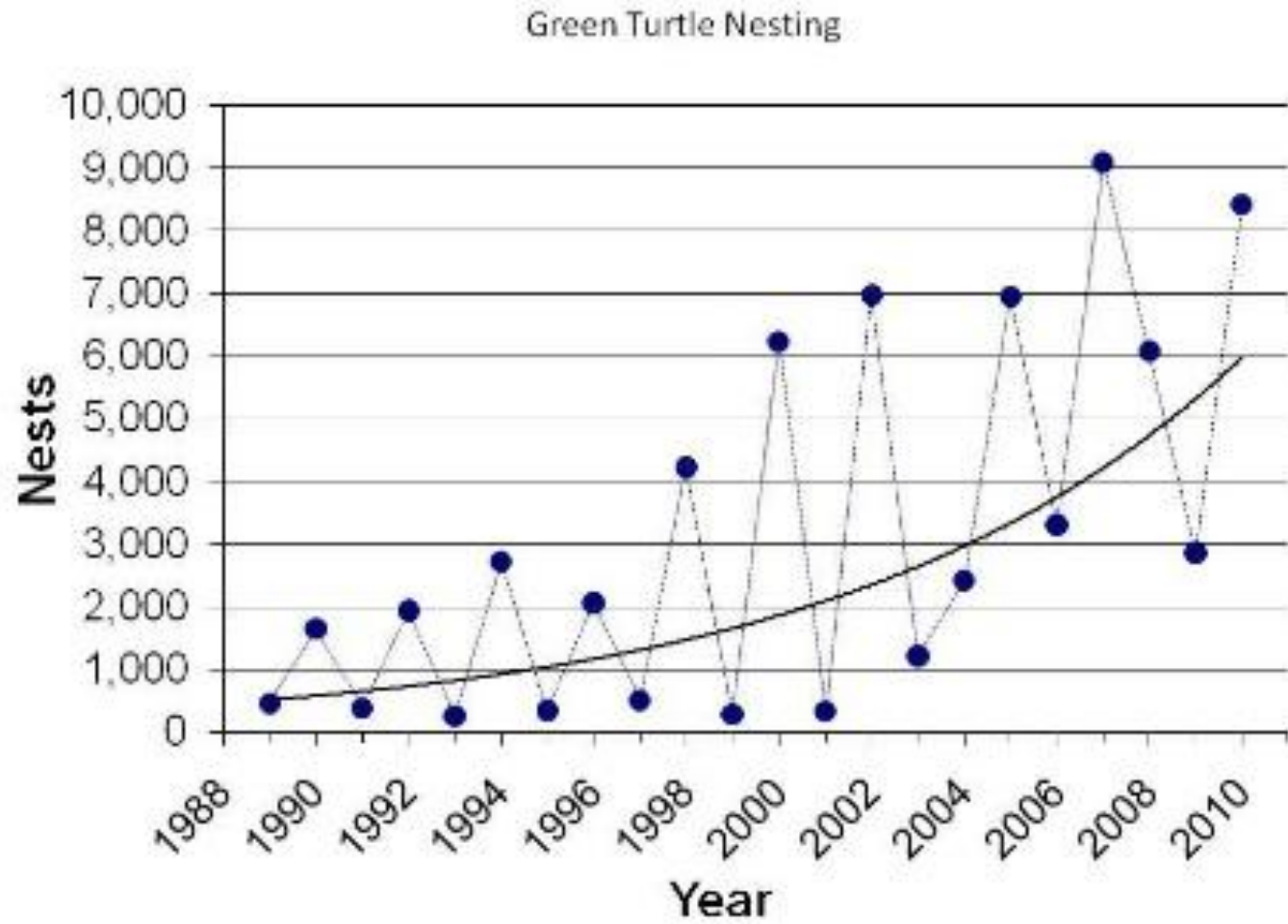
Kemp's Ridley Nesting in Mexico and Texas



Leatherback Nesting in Florida

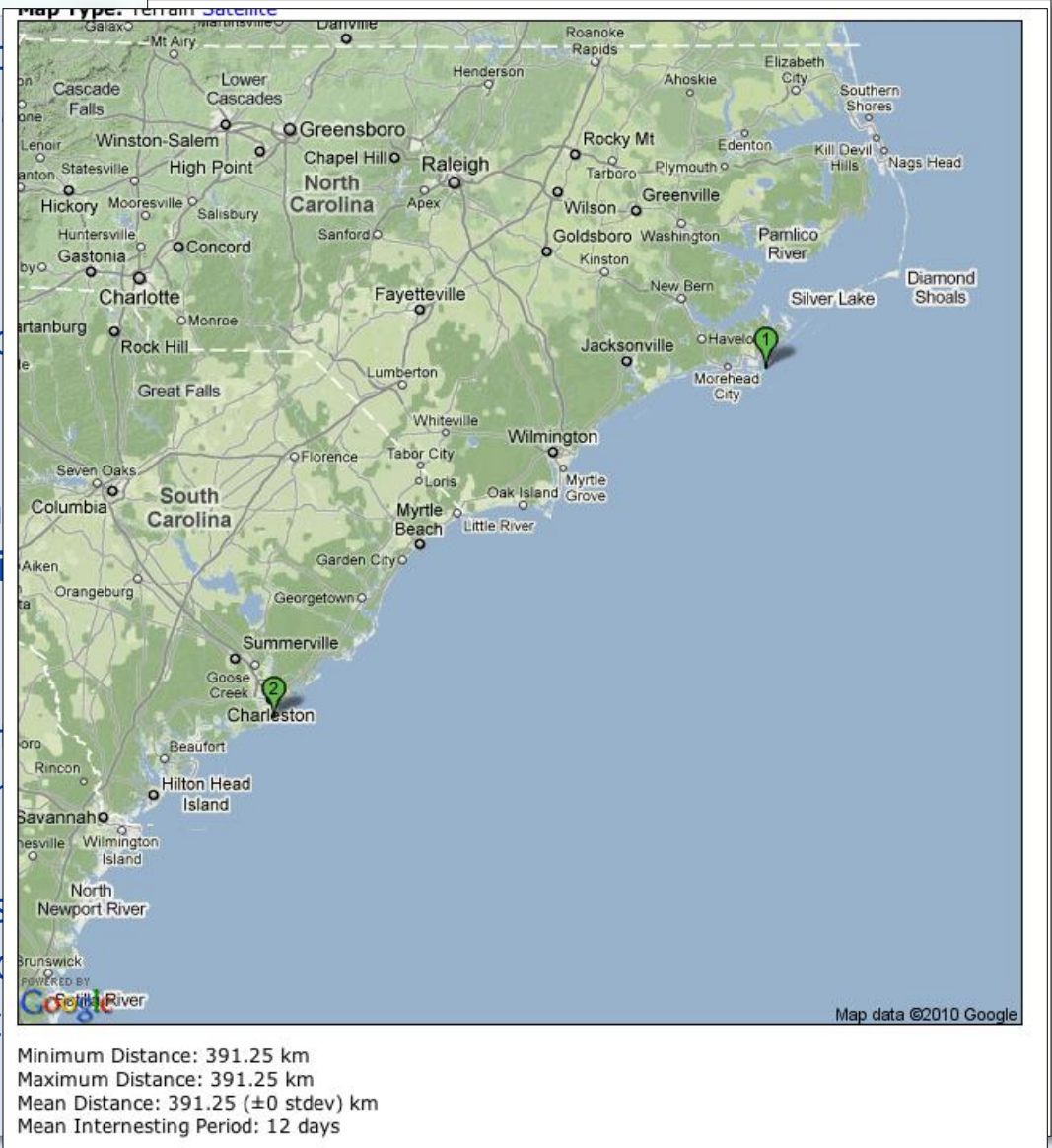


Green Nesting in Florida



Key Points to Consider

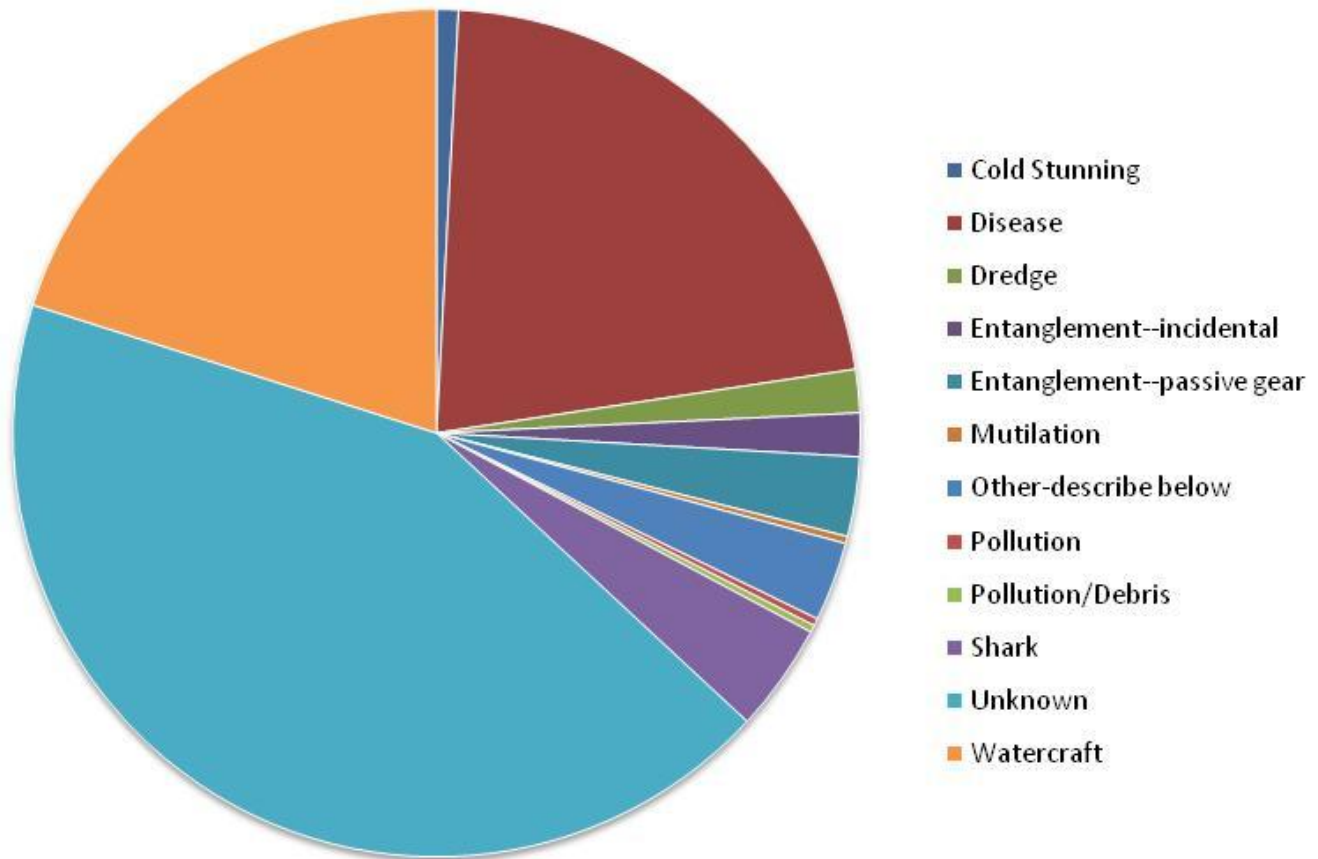
- Sea turtles are utilizing South Carolina shore and offshore waters during months of the year
- Turtles that nest in other areas of (and beyond) are using South Carolina foraging habitat
- Turtles that nest in South Carolina nesting beaches and foraging habitat Carolina waters
- Management of sea turtle populations require multistate and multinational
- Planning for potential impacts to offshore activities will have limited comprehensive management that geopolitical boundaries



Key Points to Consider

- Although encountered stranding monitor
- Only 25% actually v
- Necropsi conducted total stra cause of

Probable Cause of Stranding From Necropsied Animals



In-Water Threats

Resource Use (Fisheries)

- Trawl fisheries
- Dredge fisheries
- Longline fisheries
- Other hook and line fisheries
- Gillnet (demersal and drift fisheries)
- Pound nets and wiers
- Pots/traps
- Haul seines and channel nets
- Purse seines



In-Water Threats

Resource Use (Non-Fisheries)

- Legal harvest
- Illegal harvest
- Oil and gas activities
- Research/Conservation Management Activities
- Power generation activities
- Vessel strikes
- Human presence
- Military activities
- Salvage operations



In-Water Threats

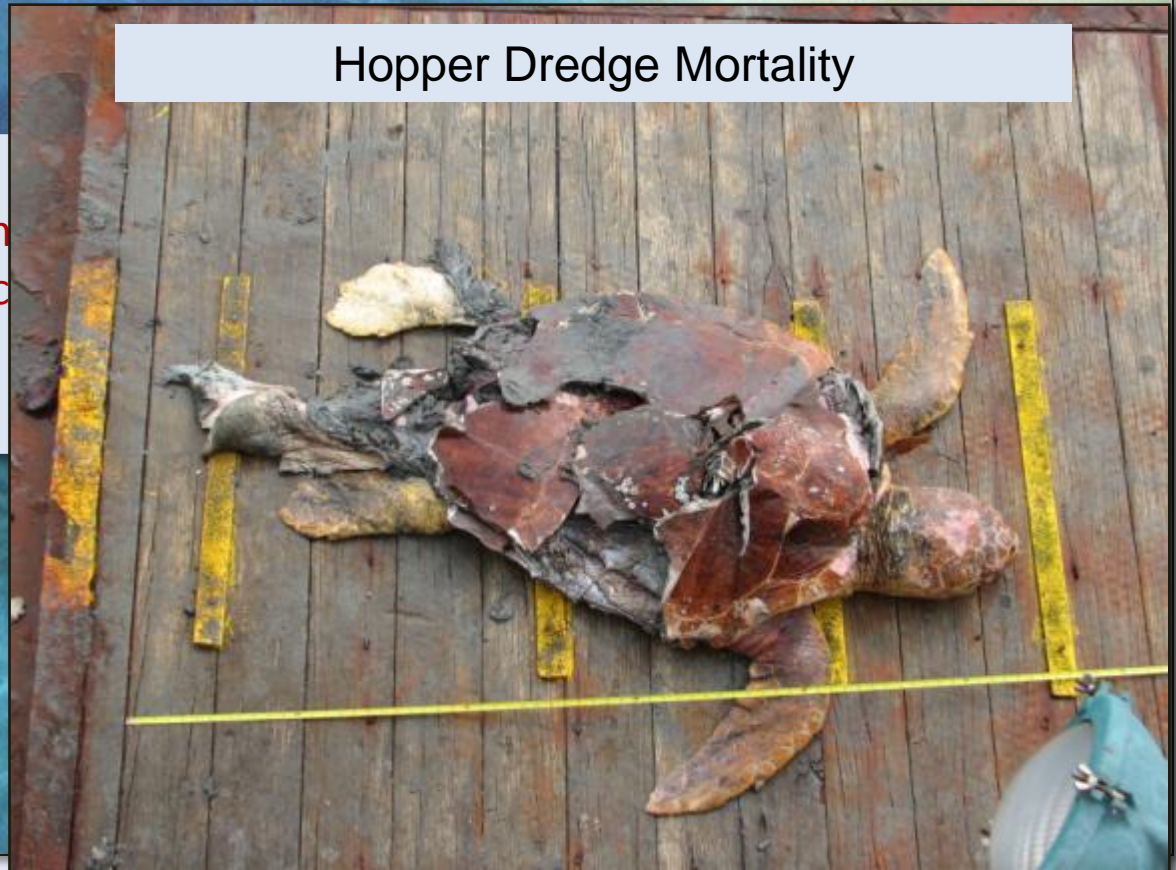
Construction and Development

- Dredging
- Channel and bridge bla
- Marine and dock deve
- Offshore breakwaters

Ecosystem Alterations

- Trophic change from fishery h
- Trophic changes from benthic
- Aquaculture
- Eutrophication

Hopper Dredge Mortality



In-Water Threats

Pollution

- Marine Debris Entanglement
- Marine Debris Ingestion
- Oil Pollution
- Chemical Pollution
- Noise Pollution
- Thermal Pollution
- Desalinization Plant Pollution



Questions

